

RECORD OF DECISIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 8, 1999 MEETING

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Record of Decisions from August 16, 1999 meeting.

The Record of Decisions from the August 16, 1999 meeting was approved on a 2-0 vote.

2. Approve Final Land Management Plan for Submittal to USFWS.

The Coordinating Committee voted to approve the Balcones Canyonlands Land Management Plan and submit it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review and comment, recognizing three specific changes that will occur in the final Plan after the initial round of USFWS comments. The three changes are as follows: (a) rewrite of the black-capped vireo chapter upon the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee, (b) revert to earlier draft language regarding horseback riding activity within the Preserve, and (c) substitute minor changes in wording on public access to LCRA properties. The Land Management Plan approval passed on a 2-0 vote.

3. Adopt Rules and Procedures for Accepting Conservation Easements.

Based on a staff request for more time to evaluate the proposed rule and procedural changes, this item was deferred until the next Coordinating Committee meeting.

4. Set Future Coordinating Committee Meeting Dates.

The next Coordinating Committee meeting date is set for Monday morning , October 11, 1999 at 9:30-11 am. Meeting location arrangements will be announced later.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS

Speakers regarding the Land Management Plan

Florence Hite (Bull Creek Equestrian Association)- Ms. Hite disagreed with the final draft wording that excluded horseback riding from all but grandfathered tracts, noting that this statement was more restrictive than the LMP guidelines. Ms. Hite wants preserve managers to immediately conduct experimental studies of public access, including horseback riding. She said that it appears that government is squeezing horses out of our culture.

Skip Cameron (Bull Creek Foundation)- Mr. Cameron agreed that continued land acquisition is a priority. He believes that the City's PARD does not have the Bull Creek Greenbelt as a priority and it should have this emphasis.

After approval of the Submittal of the Final Land Management Plan to USFWS, Mr. Cameron requested a letter from the Secretary on the appeal process regarding this Coordinating Committee decision.

Speaker regarding Conservation Easements

Joe Lessard (former Coordinating Committee Secretary)- Mr. Lessard spoke in favor of adopting the conservation easement proposal. He believes that conservation easements are more important now to the completion of the Plan and may be more powerful than participation certificates in completing the preserve system. Mr. Lessard noted that landowners now want flexibility in their participation, which is different from the original concept of the Plan. It offers the opportunity for a different type of partnership with surrounding development and keeps the property on the tax rolls. Homeowner associations will assume long-term management responsibility, not the permit holders.